

GREENHILL MANOR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – Spring 2016

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Introduction

We are very lucky to live so close to a town centre and yet relatively untroubled by developments. In our immediate area houses being turned into flats cause concern both because the outsides may be unkempt so making the neighbourhood look uncared for and, also, uncared for gardens may well spread pests. The more people living in an area the more the services need to increase to cope with demand. There are developments round the edge of our area like the Comfort Inn and the Cumberland Hotel being turned into flats so that the people who live there will make more use of the council's

services, the health service, the police, transport and the utilities, water, sewage, gas and electricity. These developments are in addition to the flats above Morrisons supermarket, Bradstowe House, 51 College Road, Kodak and the office blocks in Lyon Road, to name a few. On a more positive note these new residents may help to revive the town centre by using the local shops and amusements. The big increase in the number of local residents will need hard work and enthusiasm to build a community.

We hope to have a speaker on the Regeneration of Harrow at our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 10th May so, with this advance notice; I hope many of you will come to learn about the future of our town.

Advice from the Police

Advice to people shopping in the Town Centre:

Beware of dipping of purses and mobile phones; ensure they are kept in zipped up pockets or bags and out of sight. Be aware of people brushing close to you.

Beware of distraction techniques at Cash point machines - if anybody stands too close or tries to distract you, cancel the transaction and walk away. If you notice anything unusual about the way the cash machine is working or anybody hanging around, report it to the bank. Use a machine inside the bank if possible.

Be aware of anybody hanging around watching for money withdrawal in the bank and then following you away from the bank.

Bees and beekeeping

Harrow beekeepers, founded in 1919, are based at the Hatch End Apiary, behind the Arts Centre on the Uxbridge Road. Their website www.harrowbeekeepers.co.uk lists local beekeepers willing to come to help take away a swarm of bees.

Many people consider swarms of bees to be a sign of good fortune - but beekeepers appreciate that it's not everyone who wants to share their house or garden with bees. If they are honey bees, beekeepers can usually find a good home for them!

Swarming bees may sound and look frightening but they are at their most harmless because they have very little to defend and are away from their hive. It is a natural way for honey bees to expand and find new homes. Many swarms will settle on a branch at first forming a ball anywhere from the size of an orange to a rugby ball. Not all the places they choose are as easy to get to as the picture below. Often they are only with you for a few hours whilst they find a new home and fly off.



- Leave them to settle down and keep a sensible distance.
- Don't try to deal with the bees yourself.
- Call a Beekeeper:

Harrow Beekeepers' Association operates a swarm collection service - they do not make a charge (although a donation to their funds is always welcome!). Tell the beekeeper as much as you can. You will be asked questions that help the beekeeper to decide what it's best to do and

whether you have honey bees or some other insect such as [bumble bees or wasps](#).

Please remember many beekeepers have full time jobs and families and may not be able to come straight away. Also they may not be able to help if your bees are inaccessible or turn out not to be honey bees.

Some people in our area have hives in their gardens. Although it is further away, the Samaritans on Station Road won the cup for Best Honey at the Harrow in Leaf Show recently. A commercial beekeeper keeps hives up on the Hill. He uses this as a staging post before he moves his hives into Central London [on the roof at Tate Modern and similar places] so there are often 50 or so hives there.

Local honey is reputed to be good for people with allergies. It is sold at the Beekeepers' Marquee at the Harrow Show on August Bank Holiday Monday but individual beekeepers also sell [listed on the Harrow Beekeepers website www.harrowbeekeepers.co.uk]



PIGEONS

Most of the pigeons in our gardens are feral. Occasionally wood pigeons will appear, identified by a white ring around the neck. Racing/homing pigeons often stop to drink and sometimes get lost. They can be identified by a coloured plastic ring on their legs.

If you find a racing pigeon in your garden, initially just offer it water in a container with at least an inch of water since they suck up water so they need that depth. When it has rested and had a drink, it may then fly on.

If, after several hours it is still with you, you could offer it food such as wild bird seed, oats, sunflower seeds or mixed corn - not rice or bread as these swell when wet. If the bird is free flying do not attempt to catch it, but, if it remains grounded, carefully open the bird's wing. You may find the owner has stamped their phone number on the underside of the feathers. Otherwise check the ring on its leg for the owner's details.

Look up the different associations on Google. The National Pigeon Association secretary is at secretary@npause.com Please make sure you email the band number so the owner can be traced.

It may be some time before the bird is collected so keep it in a cardboard box with a screen over the top so that it has light but is protected from predators like cats.

Pigeons have been used to carry messages for over 1000 years. Their average flying speed is 50mph. One homing pigeon, Cher Ami was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for her heroic service in delivering 12 important messages, despite having been very badly injured

Ordinary wild **pigeons** can carry ornithosis (a mild form of psittacosis) and some have been shown to carry salmonella. This could be dangerous if they get anywhere near food. The best way to discourage feral pigeons is not to feed them. Food left out for birds is often a major cause of an infestation of rats.

Wet Gardens

After an unusually wet autumn and winter, gardens are suffering even if not actually flooded. Advice gleaned from 'Amateur Gardening' is that gardens will usually recover. It is important to keep off the ground as much as possible since footprints compress the soil. If it is necessary to walk on the lawn, put down planks and think about making a simple path on areas where access is regularly needed. When the grass has dried, plunge a garden fork 6 inch deep and 6inch apart all across the lawn, to let in air and help drainage.

Plants can survive flooding longer in the winter when they are not growing. If they do not shoot in the spring and need replacing, there are plants that like damp, for example, astilbes, yellow flag iris, Joe Pye Weed [*Eupatorium purpureum*], meadowsweet [*Hesperis*], and *Gunnera manicata*, which has huge leaves.

Do NOT be a victim of Vishing (Telephone Scams)

- 1.** NEVER disclose your memorable data, PIN numbers or Internet related passcodes.
- 2.** NEVER transfer money if told so over the phone,
- 3.** ALWAYS verify a caller's identity by calling Official Number from a different line.

Station Road

The section of Station Road between the mosque and Tesco is being improved with a grant from the Greater London Assembly. At the traffic lights at the junction of Elmgrove, Hindes and Station Roads works will be carried out to improve the appearance of the two corners nearest Harrow town centre as well as work further along the road. The committee were involved in the consultation about this scheme. Of more importance to our area is the transformation of Wickes old headquarters into a free school, which will have an impact on traffic. Work has started on the new school which is due to welcome the first 60 pupils in September 2016. St. Jerome Church of England Bilingual School will be a state-funded French-English school eventually accommodating children from the ages of 4 to 11.

Old Bonnersfield Lane

The remains of the old Lane runs from the end of Francis Road by the nursery round in a curve and come out part way up Manor Road. It is being renovated at present and will be planted up. There will be more news on this in a future edition when the work is completed.

Your Greenhill councillors to deal with local matters

Susan Anderson - EMAIL sue.anderson@harrow.gov.uk

Mobile number: 07875094900

Keith Ferry - EMAIL keith.ferry@harrow.gov.uk

Mobile number: 07922227147

Ghazanfar.Ali – EMAIL Ghazanfar.Ali@harrow.gov.uk

Mobile Number: 07840 514852

Your member of Parliament

Gareth Thomas lives locally, went to school in Harrow and have been Harrow West MP since 1997.

Gareth Thomas was re-elected MP for Harrow West at the recent election.

He lives locally, went to school in Harrow and has been Harrow West MP since 1997.

The constituency office is 132 Blenheim Road, West Harrow, HA2 7AA

Tel: 020 8861 6300. Surgeries are usually held on Fridays on a weekly basis.

gareth.thomas@harrowlabour.org

His Parliamentary address is
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 4243

Fax: 020 7219 1154

thomasgr@parliament.uk

Your current committee

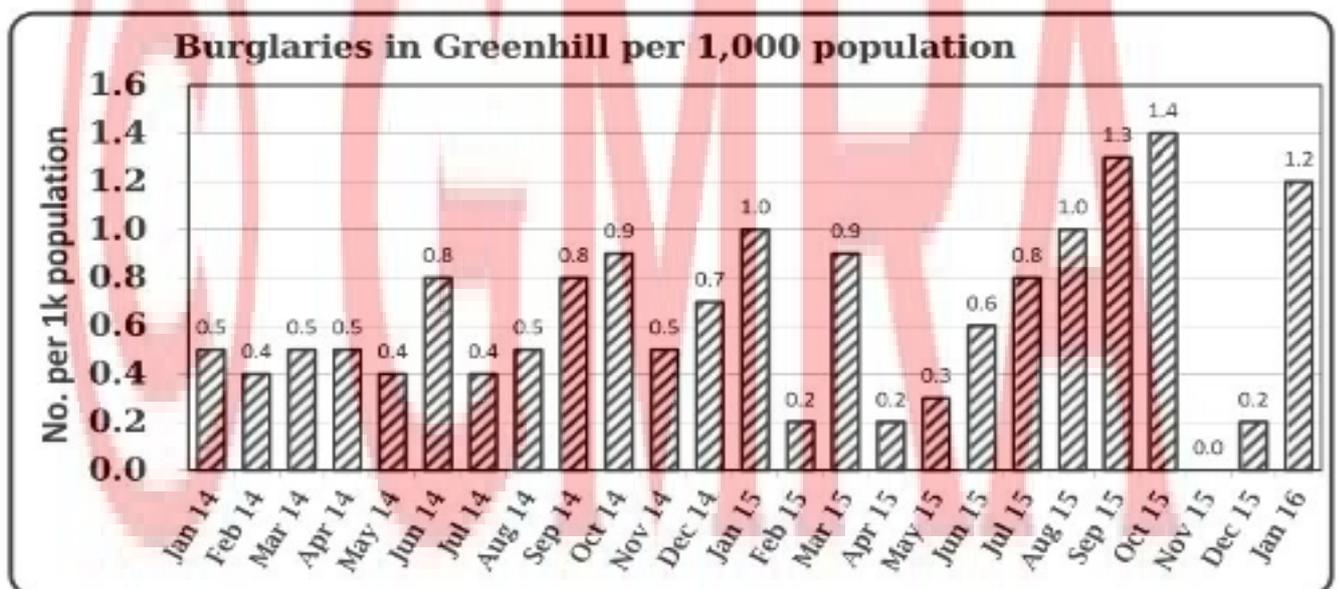
Chairman	Margaret Bristow, 118 Crofts Road
Vice Chairman	<i>Position vacant</i>
Secretary	Helen Shorter, 55 Grange Road
Treasurer	Eddie Griffiths, 11 Northwick Park Road
Planning Adviser	Jack Bye, 29 Northwick Park Road
Road Representatives	
Bonnorsfield Lane, Close & Croft Villas Crofts Road	Noor Mohamed, 71 Bonnorsfield Lane
Francis Road	Margaret Bristow, 118 Crofts Road
Grange Road	Bijal Vekaria, 35 Francis Road
Hill Crescent and Road	Helen Shorter, 55 Grange Road
Manor Road	Myrna Albertsen, 27 Hill Crescent
Northwick Park Road	Mike Moran, 43 Manor Road
	Sylvia Farooqi } Northwick
	Gwen Batham } Park Road

A Vice Chairman is needed. Please think about it or if there is anyone else you could suggest. There are six committee meetings a year, which usually only last from 7.30pm to 8.30 or so. It is an opportunity to see how the committee works and, if the Chairperson is absent, to run the meeting

Greenhill Burglaries

Here is the chart with the latest burglary figures for Greenhill – unfortunately rather higher for January 2016. Since May 2015, the burglaries have been on the rise in Greenhill compared to the rest of all Harrow. Surprisingly November 2015 it shows no burglaries, which does not sound right. Possibly it is an oversight?

The chart below shows how the number of burglaries in the whole of Greenhill has changed through the last two years. It should be noted that Greenhill extends past the town centre as far as Bessborough Road.



These figures were produced by the Metropolitan Police. They show the number of burglaries for every 1,000 people.

Useful Telephone Numbers

All MAJOR emergencies	999
Harrow Council	
Civic Centre	(020) 8901 2600
Abandoned Cars	(020) 8424 1548
Removal of bulky items	(020) 8424 1770
Metropolitan Police – Urgent	999
Metropolitan Police - Harrow Police Station and request Harrow Police Station	101
Anti-Terrorist Hot Line	0800 789 321
Crimestoppers (confidential)	0800 555 111
Greenhill Safer Neighbourhood Unit	(020) 8721 2780
To report an electricity power cut	0800 783 8838
National Gas Emergency Service	0800 111 999
Water leak (Affinity Water)	0800 376 5325
Telephone Preference Service - to stop unwanted calls	0845 070 0707
Mail Preference Service	(020) 7291 3310
Harrow Energy Efficiency Advice helpline and Energy Saving Guidance	0800 838 650
Brent and Harrow Trading Standards Service Shoppers rights	(020) 8937 5555